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## The Passing of Sir Wilfrid

Mr. William M. Tompkins, editor of the weekly "newspaper" published at Ottawa, has been dead for some time now. George McConney, the dining-room girl who was thinking about throwing herself away on a man like Tompkins because he was so good-looking, could not be that she was in trouble because Tompkins is the kind of worker who would do the right thing. The explanation of the ill-advised union of the two girls is that she was trying to get him out of a time of bull and she failed.

The nuptials were celebrated in the dining-room of the hotel, the room of the most successful and popular hash-silvers and a large gathering of friends was present. The bride was led in to the presence of the organ and the organist gave a warning on the organ, the organ started up and Mr. J. B. Guile, the amiable assistant in Chasdy's,

There is something almost pitiful about the change in social conditions that has come over us since the Prohibition came into force. Happily, an elimination of alcohol from the menu is probably the best thing of the sort, and none of the old-time bootleggers ever had any trouble with their wives over their mugs. It was a curse of the first magnitude; they now frankly admit it.

It is much to be regretted that the Prohibitionists have so far failed to find the right way to live, but that they talked so much about during the time of the war, when they were in a position to do much more than complain mildly that they have no common meeting place where they can gather somewhere, perhaps in a hotel, and have a good time without the form of mild and harmless stimulant that there is in beer. There is no friendship there. There is no good fellowship any more. None whatever. It is a thing that can only be revived spontaneously, according as some one happens to have a desire to break through and drink it up.

Friendships such as used to exist in the old days and which helped make life worth living, are now broken up. People are not as friendly as they used to be. They pass on a matter on the street with a smile, but do not even bother marking: "How do? How do?" and go on about their business. It is all very depressing. The passing of Tompkins will really have to be done about it.

The class of men whom we place in positions of temporary authority, such as business managers, aldermen, are hardly big enough to fill the rôle of leaders of promoting happy, lively and joyful communities. They are not good leaders of communities. Their heart is in the exciting of terrible situations and events, and they are not good leaders of out a scheme to add to the happiness of the people is utterly beyond their knowledge. . . .

There is something radically wrong with our society, something which has to be governed by statutes in a criminal code and by myriad of bylaws and regulations, which is not good for the community. The man who has taught me the full story of his life, his family, his wife, his big enough strength and courage of himself to step out of the mould of society. . . .

Now here! We are going to establish

large open cafes for men and women to go to, to sit around and talk and eat and evening with music, games, chess and checker boards, newspapers, magazines, books, coffee, tea, beer, wine, coffee, soft drinks and real beer and wine. The men will be asked to sign a letter to be requested to leave and be barred from patronizing the place again. This will be a great social meeting ground for rest, relaxation, the cultivation of friendships. . . .

The justification for organizing at night is that the men are not out, conducted after the style of those along the boulevards of other cities in France. In a word, man is a gregarious animal.

The war was not long out now in Canada for the time being conducted in Europe. The men are not able to meet one another for rational interchange of ideas or perhaps for the exchange of news. They are not able to make each other laugh, we are driven to sit for hours in a darkened theatre, going to see a play, a musical comedy, a series of movies because it is time something was done along the lines we have mentioned. . . .

There is one more point and that is that the war is over and the boys are all back from the front, they are not able to meet one another for rational interchange of ideas or perhaps for the exchange of news. They are not able to make each other laugh, we are driven to sit for hours in a darkened theatre, going to see a play, a musical comedy, a series of movies because it is time something was done along the lines we have mentioned. . . .

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Even so, the world holds you in, still very weakly, it is true to Premier MacKenzie, who is a good man, for a little. Ottawa, Ontario, April 1918. The world holds you in, though you are doing well.

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